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Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. has no interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome of the proposed action.

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## **APPENDIX A: PUBLIC HEARING TRANSCRIPT**

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1       IN RE:   UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES  
2               ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC HEARING  
3               IN REGARDS TO PREPARATION OF AN  
4               ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

5  
6  
7               TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

8  
9       taken on Thursday, the 25th day of February,  
10       1999, at the De Soto Senior High School Auditorium,  
11       35000 W. 91st Street, in the City of De Soto,  
12       County of Johnson, and State of Kansas, before:

13  
14               TERRI L. HUSETH, CSR  
15               Certified Shorthand Reporter

16                       of

17               JAY E. SUDDRETH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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22       a Certified Shorthand Reporter within and for the  
23       State of Kansas.

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25

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OFFICIATING

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AGENDA

- I. Opening Remarks/Introduction of Participants
- II. Description of Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant and the Federal Property Disposal Process
- III. Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Assessment
- IV. Public Comments
- V. Closing Remarks

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1 MR. HASTINGS: Good evening, ladies  
2 and gentlemen. I think we have most of the people  
3 in from the audience. Can you hear me out there?

4 THE AUDIENCE: No.

5 MR. HASTINGS: Is that better? Once  
6 again, good evening ladies and gentlemen. I would  
7 like to welcome you to the GSA NEPA meeting this  
8 evening. Thank you very much for your interest.  
9 My name is Blaine Hastings. I am the realty  
10 officer in charge of the disposal of the Sunflower  
11 Ammunition Plant.

12 At tonight's meeting we are here to  
13 receive your comments about our Environmental  
14 Assessment. And if you have attended any of these  
15 meetings on a regular basis, you will receive  
16 copies. Other copies are available at the local  
17 library for your review. We -- lost my place.

18 This evening I have with me Mr. Dan  
19 McGuire. He is our environmental contractor from  
20 the firm of Louis Berger & Associates. We also  
21 have with us, I believe, some of the cooperating  
22 agencies that have worked with us. Kansas  
23 Department of Health and Environment in conjunction  
24 with the Kansas Development and Financial  
25 Authority, Johnson County, and the City of De Soto,

1 have all worked on this.

2 In a moment, Mr. McGuire will give you a  
3 brief summary of the function, purpose and process  
4 of the Environmental Assessment, and the data it  
5 provides and will be taking comments on the  
6 findings of the document.

7 First, I would like to take this  
8 opportunity to update you on where we are in the  
9 disposal process. We have completed our public  
10 benefit screening. This is an opportunity for the  
11 local government, schools, etcetera, to request  
12 portions or federal property for a public benefit  
13 use. Those applications have been received and are  
14 currently being reviewed by the various sponsoring  
15 agencies.

16 Now, part of that is, the State of Kansas  
17 has requested to acquire the entire plant site.  
18 This does not, however, mean that we will not work  
19 with the State of Kansas and we have agreed to do  
20 this on the other public benefit applications so we  
21 can meet and see that any groups with a viable  
22 project have some opportunity for a piece of  
23 Sunflower to further their goals.

24 At this time, we are also negotiating  
25 with the State and the Army on agreements regarding

1 the environmental remediation of the facility, the  
2 timing of this remediation, as well as paying for  
3 the remediation. We are anticipating that these  
4 negotiations will be completed as early as spring,  
5 with the transfer of the property to follow  
6 shortly.

7 However, no transfer will take place  
8 before the governor of the State of Kansas has an  
9 opportunity to review it and to pass judgment on  
10 it, as well as Congress will also review this  
11 action before the transfer is completed.

12 At this time, I would like to introduce  
13 Mr. McGuire, who will further explain to you the  
14 NEPA process and the proceedings for tonight's  
15 hearing when we will take your comments regarding  
16 the Environmental Assessment, only we will not be  
17 able to take any questions at this time. Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. MCGUIRE: Good evening, ladies  
20 and gentlemen. Can everybody hear me all right?  
21 Okay. Thank you all for coming out. It's a great  
22 turnout and I would like to add especially it's  
23 encouraging to see several students from the high  
24 school here tonight. Even if they're here for an  
25 assignment, it's great to see them learning about

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1 an important process. They're to be commended.

2 As Mr. Hastings has mentioned, the  
3 purpose of tonight's meeting is to provide you with  
4 an opportunity to comment on the Environmental  
5 Assessment, generally referred to as the EA. The  
6 EA addresses potential impacts, both positive and  
7 negative, resulting from the proposed disposal of  
8 the 9,065-acre Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant  
9 located here in Johnson County. Our firm prepared  
10 the EA on behalf of the General Services  
11 Administration, and I served as Deputy Project  
12 Manager for that effort.

13 Preparation of the EA has been carried  
14 out in accordance with the National Environmental  
15 Policy Act of 1969. The Act is generally referred  
16 to as NEPA. NEPA instructs federal agencies to  
17 consider how actions such as GSA's proposed  
18 disposal of Sunflower affect the environment and to  
19 ensure the Federal agencies take these impacts  
20 fully into account during the decision-making  
21 processes. NEPA also ensures that the public is  
22 afforded opportunities to voice its interests and  
23 concerns during the environmental process.  
24 Providing that opportunity is our primary purpose  
25 here this evening.

1           The EA was published on February 11,  
2   1999. Its availability was advertised in local  
3   newspapers and the document was mailed out to those  
4   persons that previously requested the document, as  
5   Mr. Hastings said. The EA was also sent to several  
6   local libraries to be made available to the  
7   public. Publication of the EA initiated a 30-day  
8   review and comment period, which will conclude on  
9   Monday, March 15th, 1999. Written comments will be  
10   accepted by the General Services Administration up  
11   to that date and will be considered in conjunction  
12   with verbal comments you may wish to offer  
13   tonight.

14           Once the comment period ends, all  
15   comments on the EA will be reviewed by the General  
16   Services Administration. A decision whether or not  
17   to proceed with the proposed disposal action will  
18   be made thereafter. The decision will take all  
19   environmental analyses and comments received into  
20   account and will be documented by a Finding of No  
21   Significant impact.

22           If you have had an opportunity to review  
23   the EA, you will know that it includes an  
24   Introduction describing the purpose of the report  
25   and regulations under which the environmental